

**APPENDIX R**

Letter sent to Senator Rosemary McAuliffe, Senator Bill Finkbeiner,  
Representative Dave Quall, and Representative Gigi Talcott

December 13, 2000

Dear

As you know, the State Board of Education has established a Certificate of Mastery Study Committee. The rule creating this committee and its charge, along with a list of the members, is attached. At the committee's most recent meeting, it decided the charge set forth in the rule would be its mission. It also set forth three goals:

1. Make a recommendation to the State Board of Education about the validity and reliability of the secondary WASL.
2. Make recommendations to the State Board of Education regarding an evaluation of the readiness of the system to support the secondary WASL as a graduation requirement.
3. Make recommendations to the State Board of Education regarding what to do for students who cannot pass the secondary WASL.

The next meeting of the committee is Tuesday, January 30<sup>th</sup>, 3:00-7:00<sup>pm</sup>, OSPI Burien Conference Center. In planning for the meeting, it will be helpful for the committee to know with more clarity what the Legislature contemplated in adopting the following statutory language:

**"RCW 28A.655.060(3)(c)** After a determination is made by the state board of education that the high school assessment system has been implemented and that it is sufficiently reliable and valid, successful completion of the high school assessment shall lead to a certificate of mastery. The certificate of mastery shall be required for graduation but shall not be the only requirement for graduation."

More specifically, the committee would appreciate your insight and answers on the following questions relating to the statute.

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- Is a "high school assessment system" limited to only those subjects for which a secondary WASL exists at this point in time, or is it intended to be inclusive of all the subjects in the state Student Learning Goals?
- Does a "high school assessment system" allow the State Board to make separate declarations of validity and reliability about each component subject of the system, or does the Board have to base its decision on the totality of the secondary WASL system?
- Is "sufficiently valid and reliable" limited to the technical elements of the secondary WASL?
- Does "sufficiently valid and reliable" include the readiness of the education system to provide each student their appropriate opportunity to learn the Student Learning Goals and EALRs?

The committee will carry forward with its charge, make its best effort to follow legislative intent of the law, and proceed toward developing recommendations to the State Board of Education. I want to assure you that the State Board will keep you informed of the committee's progress.

Sincerely,

Gary Gainer, President  
State Board of Education  
Chair, CoM Study Committee

Attachments